

The Alexandria Gazette.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JUNE 4, 1862.

GENERAL NEWS.

In the New York Times of the 18th there appeared "an extract from a private letter of an officer who was engaged," dated Williamsburg, Va., Thursday, May 8, 1862. Chauncey McKeever, Chief of Staff and Assistant Adjutant General writes the Times: "I pronounce this extract to be a base, desperate and malicious falsehood, and have the honor to request that you will furnish me the name of the officer who wrote the above mentioned letter. The Times says the writer of the letter Gen. McKeever makes inquiry for, is in Gen. Heintzelman's *corps d'armee*, and it is left to him to finish the matter with Gen. McKeever."

The vote polled at the election in Washington, on Monday, for mayor shows, the large decrease of 2,189 on that poll at the mayoralty election in 1860, when Benet, democrat, defeated Wallach, American, by only 24 votes, though 147 votes were also cast at the same time for Dr. Magruder, a democrat. The aggregate vote of Monday was 4,862, while that of 1860 was 6,991—thus showing a falling off of nearly one-third—principally, it is to be presumed, by voters absending themselves from the polls on account of the test oath, though in part, of course, from the absence of some among the District troops, in the Federal service.

The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun says, the motion of Mr. Saulsbury yesterday, that no part of the money arising from imposts and excises shall be paid for the maintenance of fugitive slaves or free colored persons resulted in putting the republican Senators on the record in favor of the present system of supporting and educating them.

The U. S. House of Representatives has passed the bill to authorize the President to appoint diplomatic representatives to Liberia and Hayti, and then adopted a resolution proposing that Congress close its session on the 16th inst. The Senate passed a bill appropriating one hundred thousand dollars to raise vessels sunk during the war.

The Nashville correspondent of the New York Tribune gives the result of his association with the negroes there, by saying:—"On the other hand, I must own that the up-shot of their talk upon the change they expected was, that they hoped to be 'like their masters,' that is, 'live well and work little.'"

The Buffalo (N. Y.) Courier says that the story of the three men going over Niagara Falls on Sunday last, is nothing less than a merciless hoax. It has been definitely ascertained that a huge log floated over the cataract on the day on which the terrible fate is said to have occurred.

The opinion has been stated in the Senate that the cost of the war for the next fiscal year will not be less than for the present year. The region of country which must be occupied by Federal troops will be of immense extent.

It is said that both Gen. Jeff. Davis and Gov. Letcher were on the field of battle, before Richmond, on Sunday last.

The railroad to Winchester is to be immediately repaired, and travel over it resumed.

The Southern papers relate that a formidable force of Indians has broken out in the Owens river valley, in the southeastern part of this State. In two fights they are reported to have defeated the force of regular troops sent against them.

The New York Post, in giving an account of the arrival in New York, of several hundred Southern prisoners, captured at the battle at Hanover Court House, and mostly from North Carolina, says, that "the officers talk freely upon political affairs. They say they owe allegiance to their State, and that they would gladly retire from the contest into which it has entered if they could do so with honor; but they desire to be guided by her action. They admit that North Carolina is changing, and add that when she is ready to re-enter the Union, they are ready, stipulating, however, that they could not take up arms against the people of the South. In regard to the treatment they have received, they universally declare that their condition could not have been better; but they think that if they are kept here they should be given their liberty within limits, and cite the fact that in North Carolina Federal prisoners have recently been allowed perfect freedom on their individual promises that they would not escape."

The telegraph line to Fortress Monroe is working well, but the Associated Press reports and private messages are subject to delay, owing to the immense amount of official business passing over the wires. The same is true with regard to the military line from Fortress Monroe to Headquarters. Important Government messages have precedence over all others, and next the Associated Press reports are forwarded. It is impossible for those who are not on the ground to realize the difficulty of obtaining authentic information with regard to the dead and wounded after a great battle has been fought over a field of many miles in extent, and while all are engaged in taking care of the sufferers or making preparations for a new contest.

Mrs. Bingham, wife of Major Bingham, of the 1st Wisconsin regiment; Mrs. Ham, wife of the sutler of the regiment, and several other ladies were on the train captured some weeks ago by the Confederate guerrilla chieftain Morgan, while on the way from Louisville to Nashville. Great apprehensions were entertained for their safety and ultimate fate, by anxious friends; but the ladies were all released immediately by Morgan.

Ex-Representative Bouigny, of New Orleans, visited Congress and was warmly welcomed by the members. He is of the opinion that there are enough Union elements in New Orleans to form a strong Union party when the proper time comes. He adds that many who have been prominent as Confederate leaders have for some months past, or at least since the late Union victories, been converting their property into money.

The woods on the Adirondack Mountains, in the vicinity of Clinton Prison, and all through Northern New York, in fact, are on fire, and burning rapidly. The prison was only saved by a change in the direction of the wind.

Two young ladies, in Wheeling, Va., were killed by a flash of lightning, during a thunder storm, on Monday.

Lieut. James T. Chittenden recently died at Cassville, Iowa. His widow thereupon made arrangements for taking his remains to Hartsville, Indiana, his former home. While on her way to Cassville for that purpose she met the physician who attended him during his illness, who informed her that his dying request was that he might be buried with the soldiers, to remain with them till the morning of the resurrection. She thereupon returned to her home.

The Boston correspondent of the Christian Inquirer says: "Person Brownlow is earning the soubriquet of the modern Dante, no one since the great Italian, manifesting such intimate acquaintance with the infernal regions, though his frequent allusions to them are less classical than those of his great prototype."

Dr. Kline, a surgeon of Breckenborough's battery, who was captured on Saturday has been paroled and ordered to report at Washington. He is from Loudoun county, near Snickersville.

Wendell Phillips continues bitterly to abuse President Lincoln, because the latter will not come up to his Phillips's ideas about abolition. His language is foul and coarse; and it is strongly condemned in several of the Northern papers.

Both branches of the New York Common Council have passed a resolution tendering the freedom of the city to Mr. Thurlow Weed, and appointing a committee to extend to him a public reception on his arrival here. Probably few persons outside of the cabinet at Washington are aware of the services Mr. Weed has rendered to the Federal cause in Europe.

One thousand Confederate prisoners, confined at Madison, Wisconsin, have just been transferred to Camp Douglas, at Chicago. This division originally numbered 1,200, and 120 of them have died, while another hundred are still in hospital at Madison.

A can of preserved green corn, put up eighteen years ago, was opened in Portland, Maine, the other day, and found to be as fresh and sweet as it was the day it was sealed up. *Exchange.*

We can believe the green part of this tale, but doubt the truth of the corn.

There are not many more than 1,000 slaves in the State of Delaware.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad is expected to be re-opened by Sunday next, or at the next week.

There was a heavy snow storm on the 17th inst. on the right of the 17th inst.

Some of the C. W. G. papers are becoming alarmed by the renewal of a heavy immigration from China since the commencement of the present war.

A man named Umbaugh, well known in Baltimore, a violent secessionist, lately joined a guerrilla party near Mooresfield, Va., and was killed in a skirmish.

The U. S. blockading fleet have captured since the commencement of the war, 16 steamers; 9 ships; 10 barks; 12 brigs; 110 schooners; 11 sloops—in all 167 vessels.

During the past few weeks larger quantities of gunpowder have been shipped over the Kentucky Central Railroad.

Martial law went into force at Charleston, S. C., on the 13th ult.